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OGC 62-0989(a)

11 JUN 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Support Assistant to the
Deputy Director (Support)

SUBJECT: Allowance for Shipment of Excess
Household Effects as Part of
Representational Expenses

1. On 11 May 1962 you requested us to reconsider a
16 January 1962 memorandum, addressed to Chief, Finance
Division, which denied a claim by [redacted]
[redacted] in the amount of \$492.93, for out-of-pocket expenses
in shipping and storing household effects on transferring [redacted]
[redacted] Our opinion had denied the claim in absence of evidence
of specific authority to incur such additional expense.

2. A memorandum on this case, dated 4 April 1962, and
addressed to the Deputy Director (Support) from Chief, [redacted]
[redacted] Division, points out that [redacted] was amended after
the issuance of our opinion specifically to include reimbursement
for additional shipping weight allowances for "representational
purposes" if authorized by a Deputy Director or a single senior
subordinate designated by him. It is clear from your 11 May
memorandum that it has been your practice to handle these
representational allowance matters on a case-by-case basis and
that the Authorization to Incur Representation Expenses document
has usually included language authorizing expenditure of funds for
the extra cost involved in maintaining better quarters and a higher
standard of living, with the understanding that such authorization
would cover the cost of shipping additional goods and household
effects if necessary for the maintenance of such higher standard
of living. In one particular case in 1957, we reviewed this issue
and determined from the facts of that case only that the authorization
to incur representation expenses included authority for expenditure
of funds to pay transportation costs of additional household effects.
While it was the understanding between this Office and the addressee

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at that time that this determination was to have been limited to the particular case and not to be used as a precedent, this statement was not included as an integral part of the opinion.

3. On balance, particularly in light of the explanation given for how these extraordinary allowances have been administered since 1957, we would withdraw our legal objection to certification of the claim by [redacted] in the amount of \$492.93 for out-of-pocket expenses in shipping and storing household effects on transferring [redacted]. We believe that in the future the authority to incur additional expense for shipment of household effects for representational purposes should be stated specifically in the document authorizing such expenses. We are not suggesting that this authority be provided generally in all such documents but we cannot agree with the practice of leaving the issue of whether to allow reimbursement to the employee for such expenses to be settled administratively after he has, in fact, shipped the effects which are in excess of those ordinarily allowed.

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[redacted]

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Office of General Counsel

Attachment
Background Material

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